

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] Though it is possible to create an optimizing compiler for programs written in C, for example[[.]], ~~Optimizing~~ optimizing compilers configured to remove "dead" code are exceptionally expensive to create. Furthermore, optimizing compilers conventionally are not available for assembly or machine level instructions. Thus, code obfuscation flow 100 may be implemented at an assembly or machine level so as to make reverse engineering more problematic. Specifically, inert instructions may be inserted at a hardware or machine-level to make reverse engineering more problematic. Moreover, internal registers may be used in an implementation to further obfuscate due to the variety of functions performed using internal registers. Furthermore, inert instructions that do not readily translate to C, for example, may be used so as to create a set of inert instructions that do not readily translate to one or more higher-level languages. Specifically, the C language does not have the notion of a Carry bit, like an x86 processor does. Therefore RCL EAX,1 will not translate to an easily readable C implementation. Processors have many specific characteristics, such as a Parity flag, BCD number manipulation (AAD, AAA, AAM), and the like which require more complicated code when implemented in C. Using inert instructions that do not readily translate to a higher-level language results in a translated program that may be as complex as the original assembly code including inert instructions.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] Memory 502 may store all or a portion of an embodiment of code obfuscation flow 100. Additionally, memory 502 may store record 111, record 112, record 113, or obfuscated code 106. One or more aspects of the invention are implemented as program products for use with computer 500. Program(s) of the program product defines functions of embodiments in accordance with one or more aspects of the invention and can be contained on ~~a variety of signal-bearing media,~~ such as computer-readable media having code, which include, but are not limited to: (i)

information permanently stored on non-writable storage media (e.g., read-only memory devices within a computer such as CD-ROM or DVD-ROM disks readable by a CD-ROM drive or a DVD drive); or (ii) alterable information stored on writable storage media (e.g., floppy disks within a diskette drive or hard-disk drive or read/writable CD or read/writable DVD); ~~or (iii) information conveyed to a computer by a communications medium, such as through a computer or telephone network, including wireless communications. The latter embodiment specifically includes information downloaded from the Internet and other networks. Such signal bearing media, when carrying computer readable instructions that direct functions of one or more aspects of the invention represent embodiments of the invention.~~